

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 8-13, 16-30, 42-46 are pending in the application and allowed.

Claims 2-4, 47-54 are canceled with the instant amendment without prejudice.

Claims 6, 7, 14, 15 and 31 to 41 have been canceled with the prior amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 2-4 and 51-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sakurai et al.* or *Nakano*.

Claims 2-4 and 51-53 are canceled without prejudice in order to advance allowance of the instant application reserving the right to file continuing application(s) for said canceled claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2-4 and 51-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Sakurai et al.* or *Nakano*.

Claims 2-4 and 51-54 are canceled without prejudice in order to advance allowance of the instant application reserving the right to file continuing application(s) for said canceled claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1, 5, 8-13, 16-30, 42-46 are allowed. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended only to remove a reference numeral in the preamble.

Claims 47-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been canceled.

JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

In paragraph 6 of the office action Examiner makes reference to Applicant's submission for joint research agreement prior art exclusion under 35 USC 103(c) on 7/5/05 and new grounds of rejection under 37 CFR 1.109(b) having been prompted by this action. Applicant has not submitted any papers regarding joint research agreements and no rejection under 37 CFR 1.109(b) has been made by Examiner. Apparently, paragraph 6 was included in error in of the office action dated 7/27/05.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on October 27, 2005,


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10/27/05: Amd for Ser. No. 10/065,927 - Inventor(s): W. Bossert - Filing Date: 12/2/2002